



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION: NATIONAL SECURITY BRANCH



The FBI's National Security Branch carries out its mission while preserving the Constitutional and statutory rights of Americans. The FBI's long history of protecting civil rights provides a unique perspective on maintaining a proper balance between protection and privacy.

NATIONAL SECURITY BRANCH

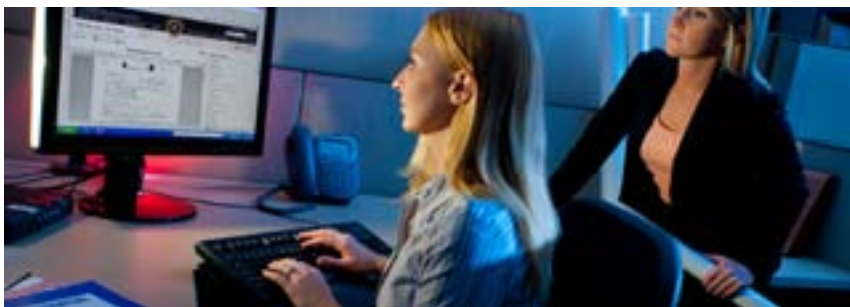
The National Security Branch (NSB) was established on September 12, 2005, in response to a presidential directive and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Commission recommendation to create a “National Security Service” combining the missions, capabilities, and resources of the FBI’s counterterrorism, counterintelligence, and intelligence elements under the leadership of a senior FBI official.

In July 2006, the NSB created the WMD Directorate to integrate components previously distributed throughout the FBI. The NSB includes the Terrorist Screening Center, which provides crucial, actionable intelligence to state and local law enforcement. Lastly, NSB has the High-Value Detainee Interrogation Group, an interagency body whose members collect intelligence from key terror suspects to prevent attacks against the United States and its allies.

Combining the FBI’s national security workforce and mission under one leadership umbrella enhances our contribution to the national intelligence effort and allows us to leverage resources from our Intelligence Community, federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, private, and foreign partners.

MISSION:

The NSB carries out the FBI’s responsibilities as the lead intelligence and law enforcement agency in the nation to detect, deter, and disrupt national security threats to the United States and its interests. Our goal is to collect, analyze, and share intelligence to develop a comprehensive understanding of—and defeat— national security threats directed against the United States while preserving civil liberties.



We continue to refine our intelligence capabilities to position ourselves to stay ahead of the evolving threats our nation faces. Intelligence directs how we understand threats, how we prioritize and investigate these threats, and how we target our resources to address them.

To be successful, we continue to integrate our intelligence and law enforcement capabilities in every operational program. The traditional distinction between national security and criminal matters is increasingly blurred as terrorists commit crimes to finance their activities and computer hackers create vulnerabilities that can be exploited. The integration of intelligence and investigations makes the FBI uniquely situated to address these threats and vulnerabilities across programs. The FBI draws on both intelligence and law enforcement tools to determine strategically where and when to disrupt threats.

The FBI’s daily successes in addressing these national security threats are reinforced by longstanding relationships with our public, private, federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial partners. With thousands of private and public business alliances and nearly 4,000 interagency members on our Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTFs)—interagency teams of federal, state, and local partners that carry out the FBI’s responsibility for leading and coordinating all intelligence and investigative activity involving terrorism—the FBI’s partnerships are essential to achieving our mission and ensuring a coordinated approach to addressing national security threats.

NSB COMPONENTS:

The Counterterrorism Division (CTD) leads law enforcement and domestic intelligence efforts to defeat terrorism. CTD also oversees more than 100 JTTFs nationwide.

The Counterintelligence Division (CD) is charged with preventing and investigating foreign intelligence activities within the United States. CD targets both traditional and emerging non-traditional threats, and investigates espionage activities, using both intelligence and law enforcement techniques. CD is home to the FBI's Counterproliferation Center, which focuses on preventing the acquisition of WMD and controlled technologies by our nation's adversaries.

The WMD Directorate leads U.S. Government law enforcement and domestic intelligence efforts to prevent and neutralize WMD threats against the U.S. Homeland and interests abroad. The WMD Directorate's prevention and outreach efforts, intelligence, operational response, and investigative capabilities are essential in its threat mitigation efforts to deny state and non-state sponsored adversaries access to WMD materials and technologies. The WMD Directorate is independent in functionality but partners with all of the necessary counterterrorism, intelligence, counterintelligence, and scientific and technical components to accomplish the FBI's overall WMD mission.

The Terrorist Screening Center (TSC) processes Known or Suspected Terrorist (KST) nominations from domestic and international Law Enforcement and Intelligence Community partners for inclusion in the U.S. Government's consolidated Terrorist Screening Database. The TSC actively collects KST encounter information and provides identity resolution and advisories for appropriate operational response. The TSC serves the law enforcement, intelligence, and international communities

The High-Value Detainee Interrogation Group (HIG) is an interagency body, administratively housed within the NSB, and staffed with

members from various IC agencies. Its mission is to deploy the nation's best available interrogation resources to collect intelligence from key terror suspects to prevent terrorist attacks against the United States and its allies. The HIG also conducts and coordinates scientific research on interrogation to determine comparative effectiveness of current techniques and to develop new, effective lawful interrogation techniques. The HIG incorporates its research findings into training provided by the HIG to members of the Intelligence Community.

SUCCESSES:



Economic Espionage Actors Convicted:

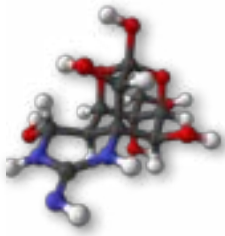
Walter Liew and Robert Maegerle were convicted of economic espionage and theft of trade secrets in 2014 after a four-year FBI investigation. At the behest of the Chinese Government, Liew (a naturalized citizen) recruited former DuPont employee Maegerle to steal secrets related to chloride-route titanium dioxide (TiO₂). The pigment, which the Chinese were unable to manufacture, has an annual global market value of \$12 billion. Through use of criminal tools, the FBI obtained large amounts of critical intelligence and evidence that led to the individuals' conviction. Liew was sentenced to 15 years in prison, and Maegerle to 30 months. This was the first-ever jury conviction of economic espionage on behalf of a foreign government.



Texas Explosives Plotter Captured:

The FBI arrested Khalid Aldawsari on February 23, 2011, in Lubbock, Texas, for obtaining several chemicals to construct an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). During the investigation, the FBI received a public tip about Aldawsari's attempt to purchase a large amount of concentrated phenol. The investigation revealed Aldawsari researched several targets; the FBI's legally authorized electronic surveillance further revealed Aldawsari used multiple e-mail accounts to research his targets as well as instructions for making explosive materials and for using cell phones as remote detonators. On November 13, 2012, Aldawsari received a life sentence after pleading guilty to one

count of attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction in connection with his purchase of chemicals and equipment necessary to make an IED and his research of potential targets.



“Puffer Fish” Toxin Attack Thwarted:

The FBI’s JTTF arrested Edward F. Bachner, IV, on June 30, 2008, outside of a UPS store after he picked up a package containing tetrodotoxin (TTX), a fatal neurotoxin. Thanks to an FBI “tripwire” program that educates private sector companies on what activities are suspicious and when to notify authorities, an employee

of the company producing the TTX contacted the FBI after Bachner made a suspicious order. FBI forensic teams searched Bachner’s residence and found additional materials later determined by the FBI Laboratory to contain TTX. In 2012, Bachner was convicted of one count of wire fraud and one count of possession of a neurotoxin with intent to use as a weapon. He was sentenced to seven years in prison.



The Alaska Peacemakers Militia Disrupted:

In 2009, the Anchorage Field Office, in coordination with CTD, began investigating The Alaska Peacemakers Militia and its leader, Schaffer Cox. Cox preached violent rhetoric and encouraged violence toward federal employees, such as encouraging militia members to kill or kidnap two officials for any member of the

group who might be killed or arrested. The FBI’s Anchorage Field Office and CTD coordinated investigative efforts and resources to gather intelligence on the terrorist threat Cox and members of the Alaska Peacemakers posed. This was the largest and most complex domestic terrorism investigation ever worked in the Anchorage Field Office. In June 2011, members of the Alaska Peacemakers Militia, including Cox, were found guilty of conspiracy to possess silencers, hand grenades, and other illegal weapons. Cox and co-conspirator, Lonnie Vernon, were also found guilty of conspiracy to murder federal officials.



U.S. Capitol Bombing Attempt Foiled:

The FBI arrested Amine El-Khalifi on February 17, 2012 as he walked to the U.S. Capitol building intent on detonating a bomb inside. Starting in 2010, El-Khalifi had an interest in joining the mujahedeen to fight in Afghanistan. Coordinating with CTD, the Washington Field Office’s JTTF used a confidential human source to collect intelligence and gain insight into El-Khalifi’s operational plans. After being introduced to an undercover JTTF officer, whom El-Khalifi thought to be a member of al-Qa’ida, El-Khalifi began discussing options for carrying out an attack. El-Khalifi’s proposed targets included a building containing U.S. military offices, as well as a synagogue and a restaurant frequented by military officials, before he decided on the U.S. Capitol. In September 2012, El-Khalifi was sentenced to 30 years in prison, followed by 10 years of supervised release.



Plot to Steal Trade Secrets Uncovered:

FBI Special Agents arrested two People’s Republic of China (PRC) nationals, Qi Xiao Guang and Huang Ji Li, in a Kansas City, Missouri, hotel room on September 2, 2012, after the men paid \$25,000 in cash for stolen documents containing Pittsburgh Corning trade secrets used to manufacture cellular glass insulation.

FBI surveillance experts recorded Qi and Huang meeting with a person the men thought was a Pittsburgh Corning employee willing to steal and sell trade secrets. Instead, their contact was an experienced and trusted employee serving as an FBI confidential human source. Company officials contacted the FBI after an advertisement placed with a local newspaper in July 2012 sought to hire “technical talent” with foam glass experience for a new Asian factory. Using an FBI-provided e-mail address, the source exchanged FBI-monitored e-mails with the PRC contacts during the summer of 2012. The conspirators detailed plans to use the stolen secrets to open a competing plant in the PRC to manufacture cellular glass insulation, a product in high demand for industrial piping systems and liquefied natural gas storage tanks. Qi and Huang reached plea agreements with federal prosecutors in November 2012.

The FBI has a rich history of using intelligence to solve cases. Ranging from investigating gangsters in the 1930s; to unraveling intelligence threats during the Cold War era; to fighting organized crime in the 1970s; to combating drug trafficking in the 1980s; to identifying and disrupting terrorist networks in the past decades, we have accepted the nation's most pressing challenges and risen to the occasion. In our role as both an intelligence agency and a law enforcement agency, we are uniquely positioned to respond to the changing world with its new adversaries and threats.

Please contact your local FBI office and ask to speak with a representative for national security matters.

You may also contact the FBI's national headquarters at [202-324-3000](tel:202-324-3000), or write to us at:

National Security Branch
J. Edgar Hoover Building
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

